

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 14421 122240Z

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 14421

EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY EAOGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, MX
SUBJ: HANDLING OF MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

REF: STATE 278182

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR MESSAGE BUT MUST POINT OUT THAT MEXICO 14245 CONTAINING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT-ELECT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER WAS SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT AND WAS SLUGGED FOR S/S. WHILE IT DID CONTAIN THE CAPTION "FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER" IT WAS IN NO WAY A MATTER OF ADDRESSING A MESSAGE "DIRECTLY TO GOVERNOR CARTER OR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF". SHOULD THE CAPTION HAVE PROVED TROUBLESOME, I AUTHORIZE ITS REMOVAL.

2. MY ONLY OBJECTIVE IS TO ENSURE THAT SUBSTANCE OF THE JLP MESSAGE IS DELIVERED THROUGH YOUR GOOD OFFICES AS I CONSIDER THIS IN LINE WITH CARRYING OUT THE SECRETARY'S ADMONITION THAT "THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES IS ENTERPRISE." I WAS APPROACHED YESTERDAY BY LIC. CARVAJAL, WHO IS IN EFFECT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S EAGLEBURGER, TO ASK WHETHER I HAD TRANSMITTED LOPEZ PORTILLO'S MESSAGE AND TO STRESS THEIR HOPE FOR AN EARLY REPLY. I TOLD HIM I HAD DONE SO THROUGH REPEAT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

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3. YOU WILL RECALL THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING HIS

LAST VISIT HERE SUGGESTED TO LOPEZ PORTILLO THAT HE CONTINUE THE PRACTICE OF MEXICAN PRESIDENTS-ELECT VISITING WASHINGTON AND U.S. PRESIDENT INFORMALLY PRIOR TO THEMSELVES TAKING OFFICE. LOPEZ PORTILLO WAS ENTHUSIASTIC AT THE PROSPECT AND IN FACT ACCEPTED THE INVITATION AS SOON AS IT WAS PROFFERED OFFICIALLY.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SEEING GOVERNOR CARTER IN CONNECTION WITH HIS TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES (MEXICO 11015 FOR THE SECRETARY ONLY). WHILE THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS TO SUCH A MEETING (STATE 213796), I UNDERSTAND FROM THE MEXICANS THAT THE MEETING WAS TURNED DOWN BY GOVERNOR CARTER ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE HAD MADE IT A PRACTICE OF NOT SEEING FOREIGN DIGNITARIES UNTIL AND WHEN HE WAS ELECTED. I ALSO UNDERSTAND FROM THE MEXICANS, HOWEVER, THAT GOVERNOR CARTER DID GREET LOPEZ PORTILLO BY TELEPHONE DURING HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON.

5. NOW LOPEZ PORTILLO SEEMS TO WANT EQUAL TREATMENT AS REGARDS SEEING THE PRESIDENT-ELECT. HE HAS GIVEN ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT HE WILL BE MORE THAN SATISFIED WITH EVEN A BRIEF MEETING OF AN HOUR OR SO AND HE IS QUITE FLEXIBLE AS TO WHERE IT MIGHT BE HELD.

6. I CONSIDER IT IN THE INTEREST OF OVERALL UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS MEXICO THAT SUCH A MEETING, HOWEVER BRIEF, TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS-ELECT. THIS IN ITSELF WILL FURTHER THE INTENTION OF TURNING OVER "A FUNCTIONING FOREIGN POLICY TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION."

7. I TRUST THAT THIS OVERALL OBJECTIVE RATHER THAN WHAT MIGHT HAVE SEEMED AN UNFORTUNATE CAPTION WILL BE KEPT IN MIND. BEST REGARDS.
CALDERHEAD

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